

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): An analysis element cartridge for containing therein a dry analysis element and setting the element into an analysis apparatus, the analysis element cartridge comprising:

an element housing chamber for holding therein the dry analysis elements,

wherein the element housing chamber is open at the top thereof and comprises:

an element charging port for receiving supplementary dry analysis elements which is defined by the open top of the element housing chamber; and

a plurality of cutouts which are respectively formed in at least two adjacent sides
corresponding plurality of adjacent walls of the analysis element housing chamber so as to extend downward respectively from ~~at least two~~ the plurality of adjacent side-wall edges of the element charging port which are the top edges of the analysis element housing chamber.

2. (currently amended): An analysis element cartridge according to claim 1, wherein the ~~downwardly extending plurality of cutouts~~ are formed in ~~three edges~~ a first side wall, a second side wall, and a third side wall of the element charging port.

3. (currently amended): An analysis element cartridge according to claim 2, wherein posts defined between the plurality of adjacent cutouts ~~are formed lower in height~~ have height lower than a height of the a side wall with no cutout.

4. (currently amended): An analysis element cartridge according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of cutouts serve as paths for fingers holding therebetween the dry analysis element when the dry analysis element is loaded into the analysis element cartridge.

5. (currently amended): An analysis element cartridge according to claim 2, wherein the plurality of cutouts serve as paths for fingers holding therebetween the dry analysis element when the dry analysis element is loaded into the analysis element cartridge.

6. (currently amended): An analysis element cartridge according to claim 3, wherein the dry analysis element is loaded in the cartridge while abutting the front end of the dry analysis element against the side wall with no cutout.

7. (currently amended): An analysis element cartridge according to claim 2, wherein the cutouts in the ~~left and right~~ first and third sides-side walls are deeper than the cutout in the ~~rear~~ the second side wall.

8. (currently amended): An analysis element cartridge according to claim 3, wherein the cutouts in the ~~left~~ first and ~~right~~ third sides-side walls are deeper than the cutout in the ~~rear~~ second side wall.